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# Allied Health Professions



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# HEALTH CAREERS

## THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

### **The Purpose:**

The purpose of this seminar is to provide high school students with an overview of the health environment with an emphasis on the multiple allied health professions career options that are available.

### **The Objective:**

The objective of the session is to:

- 1) Provide students with information on the history and the evolution of the allied health professions;
- 2) Provide working definitions of the allied health field;
- 3) Provide an organizational framework of the health occupations;
- 4) Explain the role of education, accreditation, certification and licensure requirements, and finally;
- 5) Briefly discuss employment opportunities and salary ranges.



# INTRODUCTION

## I. The History and Evolution of the Allied Health Professions

- Since the dawn of human kind the allied health professions have played a significant role in the healing arts professions.
  - Hippocrates, the father of medicine, is reported to have said to his students “let thy food be the medicine and thy medicine be thy food.”
  - Nutrition healers
  - Herbal medicine (pharmacist)
  - Priest, traditional healers
- It wasn't until the middle of the 1800s that the formal education and training of the allied professions began.



# I. The History and Evolution of the Allied Health Professions – Cont'd.

- The training parallels the formal establishment of organized medical education in the U.S.:
  - 1) Shattuck Report 1850 established framework for defining health workers
    - a) Occupational health
    - b) Preventive health
    - c) Public health
    - d) Medical health
  - 2) Flexner Report 1910 defined the formal education structure for medical schools.
- b. This is the model for most health professionals.



## II. What is An Allied Health Professional?

- ***Broadly defined*** (U.S. Division of Allied Health Manpower, 1969)

“All those professional, technical, and supportive workers in the field of patient care, community health, who engage in activities that support, complement, or supplement the professional of administrators and practitioners.”
- ***Vaguely defined*** (American Medical Association [AMA])

Fulfill necessary roles in the health care system, including assisting, facilitating, and complementing the work of physicians and other health care specialists.”



## II. What is An Allied Health Professional?

### – Cont'd

- What it is not (Pew Advisory Panel for Allied Health, 1992) exception of nursing and the MODDVOPP disciplines...Medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy and podiatry.”
- There is no uniform definition. However, most people would agree it consists of those positions that support, complement, or supplement the professional administrators and practitioners. These are mid-level health workers.



# III. Who Are These Workers?

- The number of workers on the health care team has increased significantly since 1900. i.e., from 1-3 members of the formal health care team, namely the physician, the nurse, and the aide.
- Presently there is a new majority in the health field. Some estimate that 60% of the work force is allied health personnel. The following are allied health categories defined by the U.S. Office of Education.

## **Administration**

Hospital Assistant Administrator  
Medical/Dental Secretary  
Unit Clerk  
Unit Manager

## **Dental Services**

Dental Assisting  
Dental Hygiene  
Dental Laboratory Technology  
Dental Services, Other



# Diagnostic and Treatment Services

- Technology Cardiovascular Technology
- Dialysis Technology
- Electrocardiograph
- Electroencephalograph Technology
- Emergency Medical Technology – Ambulance
- Emergency Medical Technology – Paramedic
- Medical Radiation Dosimetry
- Nuclear Medical Technology
- Radiologic (Medical) Technology
- Respiratory Therapy Technology
- Surgical Technology
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Diagnostic and Treatment Services, Other





# Medical Laboratory Technologies

- Blood Bank Technology
- Chemistry Technology
- Clinical Animal Technology
- Clinical Laboratory Aide
- Clinical Laboratory Assisting
- Cytotechnology
- Hematology Technology
- Histologic Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Medical Technology
- Microbiology Technology
- Medical Laboratory Technologies, Other



# Mental Health/Human Services

- Alcohol/Drug Abuse Specialty
- Community Health Work
- Home Health Aide
- Mental Health/Human Services Assisting
- Mental Health/Human Services Technology
- Rehabilitation Counseling
- Therapeutic Child Care Work
- Sign Language Interpreting
- Mental Health/Human Services, Other



# Miscellaneous Allied Health Services

- Central Supply Technology
- Medical Assisting
- Medical Illustrating
- Medical Office Management
- Medical Records Technology
- Pharmacy Assisting
- Physician Assisting
- Podiatric Assisting
- Veterinarian Assisting
- Health Information Technologists and Administrators
- Chiropractic Assisting
- Miscellaneous Allied Health Services, Other



# Nursing-Related Services

- Geriatric Aide
- Nursing Assisting
- Practical Nursing
- Health Unit Management
- Nursing – Related Services, Other
- Rehabilitation and Related Services
- Art Therapy
- Corrective Therapy
- Dance Therapy
- Exercise Physiology
- Music Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Occupational Therapy Assisting



# Rehabilitation and Related Services – Cont'd

- Occupational Therapy Aide
- Orthotics/Prosthetics
- Orthopedic Assisting
- Physical Therapy
- Physical Therapy Aide
- Physical Therapy Assisting
- Recreational Therapy
- Recreational Therapy Assisting
- Respiratory Therapy
- Speech/Hearing Therapy Aide
- Recreational Therapy Aide
- Rehabilitation Services, Other



# Allied Health - New Emerging Fields

- Telemedicine
- Laser Technicians



- There are hundreds of allied health professions and over six million people in allied health jobs. That means most people in health care are not doctors or nurses, but rather allied health professionals.
- The following chart is the Bureau of Labor Statistics projections for the future needs in allied health.



Selected Occupations	1998-2008 Projected Percent Change
■ Social Workers	47.4
■ Physical Therapists	34.5
■ Respiratory Therapists	43.0
■ Physician Assistants	52.0
■ Occupational Therapists	30.3
■ Computer Systems Analysts,	62.3
■ Speech-Language Pathologists	37.3
■ Dietitians and Nutritionists	20.1
■ Medical Assistants	58.8
■ Dental Assistants	43.4
■ Physical Therapy Assistants and Aides	44.7
■ Pharmacy Assistants	11.6
■ Clinical Laboratory Technologists & Technicians	17.4





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Selected Occupations	1998-2008 Projected Percent Change
■ Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	19.8
■ Dental Hygienists	41.3
■ Coding Specialists and Health Information Technicians	48.2
■ Emergency Medical Technicians	37.6
■ Health Services	36.1



# IV. Education, Accreditation, Certification and Licensure

## ■ Education

### □ Technician = 2 years AS Degree/Certification

- Medical Lab Technician
- Medical Records Technician
- Dietetic Technician
- Orthotic/Prosthetic Technician

### □ Technologist = 2 + 2 BS Degree

- Medical Technologists
- Medical Administrator
- Dietitian/Nutritionist
- Orthotist/Prosthetist



# IV. Education, Accreditation, Certification and Licensure

## ■ Accreditation

Programs are nationally accredited by various associations that review curriculum, provide professional development for faculty and students, as well as continuing education professionals.

## ■ Certification

Students are required to sit for certification board exams once the academic process is completed.

## ■ Licensure

After certification each professional is required to stay abreast of changes and new innovative developments within their professions. Continuing education requirements vary with each allied health profession.



## V. Responsibilities and Salary for Selected Fields

### (Salary Range for Entry Level \$30,000 to \$70,000)

- **Radiologic Technologists** take x-rays with radiation of a person's body to figure out if anything is wrong. Education requirements are at different levels – certificate associates or bachelors degrees – and the salary is approximately \$45,000.
- **Health Information Technologists** ensure that health information is processed and categorized, and all necessary information is entered into computer databases. Educational programs are 2 years and salary for entry level with certification is up to \$50,000.
- **Diagnostic Medical Sonography**, also known as ultrasound technologists, use equipment projects that's high frequency sound waves to create images of internal structures. Educational programs are 1 year to 18 months and the salary is up to \$45,000.



## V. Responsibilities and Salary for Selected Fields (Salary range for Entry Level \$30,000 to \$70,000) – Cont'd

- **Clinical Laboratory Technicians** perform lab tests to collect information that helps pathologists diagnose and treat diseases. Education is a 12-month associate degree and the salary is about \$35, 000 entry level.
- **Physician Assistants (PAs)** provide diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive health care services under the supervision of physicians. Education is 2 years and the salary range is 50,000 entry level.
- **Nuclear Medicine Technologists** administer radiopharmaceuticals (medication that contain radiation emitting atoms) to patients and then use a highly computerized imaging device that monitor the characteristics and functions of tissues or organs. Education is one year for certificate and bachelors is two years. Salary range is 45,000 up to mid 60,000



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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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